



right to prove that the date of publication is in fact different.

The references listed on Sheet 1 of Form PTO-1449 were cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in parent application Serial No. 10/215,249, filed August 9, 2002, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 USC § 120. Copies of these references are not attached under 37 CFR 1.98(d).

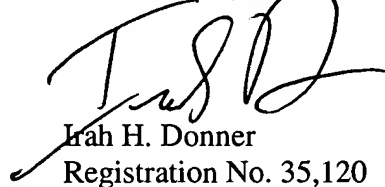
Applicants' representative certifies that the documents listed on Sheet 2 of Form PTO-1449 were cited in a communication from the European Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months before the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Copies of the non-U.S. documents listed on Sheet 3 of Form PTO-1449, some of which were cited in the prosecution of the corresponding PCT patent applications, are enclosed. A copy of the search reports for the PCT patent application is also enclosed.

No fee is believed to be required, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in any fees pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.17 associated with this communication and to credit any excess payment to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

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